

Case 3514**ENHYDRINI Régimbart, 1882 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed emendation of spelling to ENHYDRUSINI to remove homonymy with ENHYDRINI Gray, 1825 (Mammalia, MUSTELIDAE)**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 29 and 55.3 of the Code, is to remove the homonymy between the family-group ENHYDRINI Régimbart, 1882 (Insecta, Coleoptera) and ENHYDRINI Gray, 1825 (Mammalia, MUSTELIDAE) which are homonyms resulting from similarity of the names of their respective type genera, *Enhydrus* Laporte, 1834 and *Enhydra* Fleming, 1822. Both names are in use and are placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology. It is proposed to change the spelling of the beetle family-group name to ENHYDRUSINI by emending the stem of the name of the type genus *Enhydrus* Laporte, 1834, while leaving the mammalian name, based on *Enhydra* Fleming, 1822, unchanged.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Mammalia; MUSTELIDAE; LUTRINAE; ENHYDRINI; *Enhydra*; Insecta; Coleoptera; GYRINIDAE; GYRININAE; *Enhydrus*; otters; beetles.

1. There is a known nomenclatural problem with the family-group name ENHYDRINI, as it has been applied to two different groups of animals (otters and whirligig beetles). The homonymy between both family-group names is the result of similarity of the names of their type genera (Article 55.3 of the Code). ENHYDRINI Régimbart, 1882 is based on *Enhydrus* Laporte, 1834 (p. 110) and is currently in use for a tribe of the subfamily GYRININAE (Coleoptera, GYRINIDAE). ENHYDRINI Gray, 1825 (Mammalia, MUSTELIDAE) is based on *Enhydra* Fleming, 1822 (p. 187), a monotypic genus containing the sea otter *Enhydra lutris* (Linnaeus, 1758).

2. The family-group name for sea otters was initially introduced by Gray (1825, p. 340) as ENHYDRINA. This spelling was subsequently corrected to ENHYDRINAE Gray, 1825 and the name was placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology (Direction 53, Opinions and Declarations, 12: 456). It was used as ENHYDRINI Gray, 1825 by Sokolov (1973), Willemsen (1992, p. 62), Morlo & Kunderát (2001), Morales et al. (2005, p. 53), Pickford (2007, p. 122) and Haile-Selassie (2008).

3. *Enhydra* Fleming, 1822 is placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology (Opinion 384, Opinions and Declarations 12: 71–190).

4. The name *Enhydrus* has a much more complex story. It was first used by Rafinesque (1815, p. 77) for a water snake but was considered to be an incorrect

subsequent spelling of *Enhydris* Latreille, [1802] and was placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology (Opinion 710, BZN 21: 242–245, October 1964).

5. *Enhydrus* Dahl, 1823 was established for a genus of HYDROPHILIDAE (Insecta, Coleoptera). It was published in a work suppressed for nomenclatural purposes under the plenary power and which is placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoology (Opinion 710, BZN 21: 242–245, October 1964).

6. MacLeay (1825, p. 35) established the name *Enhydrus* in the family HYDROPHILIDAE (Insecta, Coleoptera). It was suppressed and placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names in Zoology (Opinion 710, BZN 21: 242–245, October 1964), following an application by Balfour-Browne & Brinck (1961, p. 137) who proposed conservation of *Enhydrus* Laporte, 1834 by suppression of *Enhydrus* MacLeay, 1825 and *Enhydrus* Dahl, 1823.

7. The coleopteran genus *Enhydrus* (type species *Gyrinus sulcatus* Wiedemann, 1821, p. 4) was established by Laporte (1834, p. 110) in the family GYRINIDAE. It is placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology. The tribe ENHYDRINI was established by Régimbart, 1882. Folkerts (1979) divided GYRINIDAE into two subfamilies, GYRININAE Régimbart and SPANGLEROGYRINAE Folkerts. Most recently Beutel & Roughly (2005) used this classification. Four tribes are placed in GYRININAE: GYRININI Régimbart, ENHYDRINI Régimbart, ORECTOCHILINI Régimbart and HETEROGYRINI Brinck. Five genera assigned to ENHYDRINI are: *Enhydrus* Laporte (4 spp.), *Dineutus* MacLeay (79 spp.), *Andogyrus* Ochs (20 spp.), *Macrogyrus* Régimbart, (34 spp.) and *Porrorhynchus* Régimbart (5 spp.). *Enhydrus* Laporte is still used as a valid name in the tribe ENHYDRINI Régimbart, 1882 (Beutel, 1989; Oygur & Wolfe, 1991; Ribera et al., 2002; Beutel & Roughley, 2005; Beutel et al., 2006, 2008; Archangelsky & Michat, 2007; Majka, 2008; Majka & Kenner, 2009).

8. Guignot (1954, p. 45) proposed the replacement name *Prothydrus* for *Enhydrus* Laporte, 1834, which is a junior homonym of *Enhydrus* Dahl, 1823 (p. 34) and *Enhydrus* MacLeay, 1825 (p. 35). He also proposed a change of the subfamily name to PROTOHYDRINAE. This proposal was not accepted; the name *Prothydrus* Guignot, 1954 was placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology, and the name PROTOHYDRINAE Guignot, 1954 was placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology (Opinion 710, BZN 21: 242–245, October 1964).

9. However, it was discovered during the course of preparation of Opinion 710 that the family-group name ENHYDRINI Régimbart, 1882 proposed by Balfour-Browne & Brinck (1961) was a homonym of ENHYDRINI Gray, 1825 (Opinion 710, BZN 12, p. 244), and it was suggested that the question of a substitute for ENHYDRINI Régimbart, 1882 would be dealt with in another application to the Commission. Apparently this has never happened, and the problem has remained. McKenna & Bell (1997) followed by Morales & Pickford (2005, p. 235) re-introduced the question but no action has yet been taken.

10. *Enhydra* Fleming, 1822 is derived from the Greek ‘enhudris’, meaning an otter. *Enhydrus* Laporte, 1834 is derived from the Greek ‘enhudros’, meaning ‘living in water’.

11. It is not desirable to change the name ENHYDRINAE Gray, 1825 because it is placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology and because it is widely used (e.g. Ingles, 1965, p. 481; Harrison, 1972, p. 334; Estes, 1980, p. 1; Rice, 1998; McKenna & Bell, 2000; Anthony, 2005, p. 181; Herrick, 2009, p. 85).

12. Such a case involving family-group names must be referred to the Commission for a ruling to remove homonymy under Article 55.3.1 of the Code. It is therefore proposed that the spelling of the coleopteran family-group name be changed to ENHYDRUSINI by emending the stem of the name of the type genus *Enhydrus* Laporte, 1834 to *Enhydrus-*, while leaving the mammalian family-group name, based on *Enhydra* Fleming, 1822, unchanged.

13. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that for the purposes of Article 29 of the Code the stem of the generic name *Enhydrus* Laporte, 1834 is *Enhydrus-*;
- (2) to emend the entry on the Official List of Generic Names of Zoology for the name *Enhydrus* Laporte, 1834 to record that for the purposes of Article 29 of the Code the stem of the generic name *Enhydrus* Laporte, 1834 is *Enhydrus-*;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name ENHYDRUSINI Régimbart, 1882, type genus *Enhydrus* Laporte, 1834 (spelling emended by the ruling in (1) above) (Insecta, Coleoptera);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the name ENHYDRINI Régimbart, 1882 (spelling emended to ENHYDRUSINI, as ruled in (1) above) (Insecta, Coleoptera).

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